

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
FINAL UTILITY ORDERS  
Selected for Publication  
July 2005

July 15, 2005

In the Matter of the Joint  
Application of:

DOCKET NO. UT-050814

VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS,  
INC. and MCI, INC.

ORDER NO. 03

For Approval of Agreement and  
Plan of Merger

ORDER DENYING REQUEST TO  
MODIFY PROTECTIVE ORDER;  
AMENDING PROTECTIVE ORDER

In denying a request to include terms in a protective order of which the requesting party was aware at the time the protective order was initially negotiated, the Commission will take into account the absence of similar provisions in prior proceedings and the burden on the parties due to the requested modification. ¶¶ 12, 14; WAC 480-07-420; RCW 80.04.95.

The Commission sees little distinction between in-house and retained attorneys in terms of their legal and ethical obligations to abide by the terms of a Commission protective order. ¶ 15; *Id.*

Restrictions against copying documents designated “copy-prohibited” must balance the need for confidentiality with the need for the flexibility to work with copies that may be critical to the parties’ ability to pursue discovery and prepare their presentations. ¶ 18; *Id.*